NEW YORK, NY, February 9, 2022 -- The Architectural League of New York is pleased to announce the winners of its annual Emerging Voices competition. Each year the League selects eight emerging practices through a juried, invited portfolio competition. The award spotlights individuals and firms based in the United States, Canada, and Mexico with distinct design voices and the potential to influence the disciplines of architecture, landscape design, and urbanism. The jury reviews significant bodies of realized work and considers accomplishments within the design and academic communities as well as the public realm. The work of each Emerging Voice represents the best of its kind, and addresses larger issues in architecture, landscape, and the built environment.

Being named an Emerging Voice by The Architectural League is one of the most coveted awards in North American architecture. Since 1982, the program has identified more than 300 awardees who have gone on to develop influential careers. A list of all past winners can be found at archleague.org/emerging-voices.

The selection process involved a two-stage review of work from approximately 50 entrants. The jury, which brought together design professionals from across North America (including several past Emerging Voices winners), comprised Ersela Kripa, El Paso, TX; Paul Lewis, New York, NY; Zach Mortice, Chicago, IL; Marc Neveu, Tempe, AZ; Rashida Ng, Philadelphia, PA; Chelina Odbert, Los Angeles, CA; Susan Scott, Vancouver, Canada; Saidee Springall, Mexico City, Mexico; and Sara Zewde, New York, NY.

Paul Lewis, jury member and president of The Architectural League, describes the winners’ work:

“In our initial review of the applications for this year’s Emerging Voices, the jury was struck by the breadth of the different types of work. But, rather than indicating a fracturing of our discipline, this year’s winners were united in how they each clarified new types of agency, and new notions of value motivated by an optimism about what an architect could and should do.”

Emerging Voices is organized by League program director Anne Rieselbach and program manager Rafi Lehmann.


Firm profiles can be found on the League’s website. Editorial features offering additional insight into each winner’s work will be published in the coming months.

Learn more at archleague.org/ev22.
### Emerging Voices 2022

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Azra Akšamija</td>
<td>MIT Future Heritage Lab</td>
<td>Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>Azra Akšamija is the founding director of MIT Future Heritage Lab, an art, education, and preservation lab based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Akšamija’s work explores “[the] destruction of cultural infrastructures within the context of conflict, migration, and forced displacement,” according to her website. Through textiles, photography, design, animation, and writing, she develops “resistant infrastructures” that aim to challenge social incongruities and improve the lives of communities under threat. Akšamija is an associate professor in the MIT Department of Architecture, where she directs the Art, Culture and Technology Program.</td>
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<td>Paola Aguirre Serrano, Dennis Milam</td>
<td>Borderless Studio</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Borderless Studio is a design and research practice based in Chicago and San Antonio. The studio describes its focus as “connecting communities to design processes and cultivating collaborative design agency through interdisciplinary projects.” In partnership with local stakeholders, Borderless designs and enacts a wide range of urban interventions that aim to promote spatial justice and equity. Recent projects include Creative Grounds, a series of collaborative activation projects at a former elementary school in the Chicago neighborhood of Bronzeville, and Buena Vida Choice Neighborhood Plan, a transformative neighborhood plan for a 1940s-era public housing site in Brownsville, Texas.</td>
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<td>Jorge Arvizu, Ignacio del Río, Emmanuel Ramírez, Diego Ricalde</td>
<td>Estudio MMX</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
<td>Estudio MMX is a Mexico City-based design practice founded in 2010 by Jorge Arvizu, Ignacio del Río, Emmanuel Ramírez, and Diego Ricalde. In its own words, the studio interrogates “the processes of generating public and private spaces, the definition of the limits between interior and exterior, and the ambivalence implicit in these dichotomies.” Across its diverse range of projects, Estudio MMX prioritizes participatory design, vernacular tradition, and environmental integrity. Recent projects include Jojutla Central Gardens, a civic square in a community affected by the 2017 earthquake in Mexico, and Site Museum, a museum whose design blurs the boundaries between interior and exterior.</td>
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<td>Felecia Davis</td>
<td>Felecia Davis Studio</td>
<td>State College, PA</td>
<td>Felecia Davis is a researcher and designer focused on the possibilities of computational textiles: “textiles that respond to their environment via programming, embedded sensors, and electronics,” as Davis describes them. Through its varied experimentations with this form, her practice aims to reimagine the possibilities for textiles in architecture, both to achieve lighter-weight buildings and to communicate through fiber. Davis is an associate professor at the Stuckeman Center for Design Computing in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Pennsylvania State University and is the director of SOFTLAB@PSU. She is a founding member and an executive officer of the Black Reconstruction Collective.</td>
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Emerging Voices
2022

Behnaz Assadi, Nima Javidi
JA Architecture Studio
Toronto, Canada
JA Architecture Studio is a Toronto-based practice led by Iranian-Canadian architects Behnaz Assadi and Nima Javidi. The studio's work emphasizes light wood frame construction, geometric experimentation, and vernacular form. From the narrow plots of Toronto's Queen West neighborhood to large-scale international design competitions, JA Architecture Studio employs a “one-to-one” process, defined by Assadi and Javidi as a design approach shaped through “the physical register of immigration, of being slightly off from the context that you aspire to fit within, struggle with, and eventually change.” Assadi is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. Javidi is currently the Gwathmey Professor of Design at the Cooper Union.

Daniel Adams, Marie Law Adams
Landing Studio
Somerville, MA
Landing Studio is a Massachusetts-based architecture and urban design practice. From marine docks to highway underpasses, the studio reimagines active industrial and infrastructural sites as accessible public spaces. It describes its work as “[leveraging] the unique scales and qualities of these spaces to bring spectacular, monumental, and delightful dimensions into the public realm.” Projects include The P.O.R.T., the conversion of a 13-million-gallon oil tank farm into a publicly accessible multi-use waterfront, and Marginal Street Community–Industry Seam, a redesign of the border between a heavy industrial waterfront and a high-density, low-income immigrant neighborhood. Daniel Adams is the director of the School of Architecture at Northeastern University. Marie Law Adams is a lecturer on urban design at MIT.

Sekou Cooke
sekou cooke STUDIO
Charlotte, NC
sekou cooke STUDIO is an architecture and urban design practice founded in 2008. In its own words, the studio is “centered on the exploration of Hip-Hop Architecture, an approach to contemporary design that embraces hip-hop culture and applies its shape, structure, and ideologies to the built environment.” The studio's work includes public, nonprofit, and residential projects, as well as temporary installations and speculative designs. The studio's founding principal Sekou Cooke is the director of the Master of Urban Design program at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the 2021/2022 Nasir Jones Hip-hop Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University, and a founding member of the Black Reconstruction Collective.

Tsz Yan Ng
Tsz Yan Ng Design
Ann Arbor, MI
Tsz Yan Ng Design is a research and creative practice based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Its work advances “innovations that are not only more in tune with contemporary building processes, but are also aspirational in integrating socially, ethically, and environmentally driven imperatives,” in the words of its founder Tsz Yan Ng. Focused on experimentations with concrete and the intersections of clothing manufacturing and architecture, the practice interrogates the many facets and forms of labor in the R&D field. Projects include Thermoplastic Concrete Casting, an exploration of molding techniques for glass fiber reinforced concrete, and Robotic Needle Felting, a novel additive manufacturing technique for nonwoven textiles. Ng is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan’s Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.
Emerging Voices 2022 lecture series

The lecture series provides an opportunity for architects and designers awarded the Emerging Voices distinction to present exceptional and challenging work to their peers and the greater design community—the kind of recognition and intergenerational engagement that has been a part of The Architectural League’s mission since its founding in 1881.

3/10/22
Paola Aguirre Serrano, Dennis Milam
Borderless Studio
Chicago, IL

Felecia Davis
Felecia Davis Studio
State College, PA

Moderated by Zach Mortice
Chicago, IL

3/17/22
Behnaz Assadi, Nima Javidi
JA Architecture Studio
Toronto, Canada

Tsz Yan Ng
Tsz Yan Ng Design
Ann Arbor, MI

Moderated by Marc Neveu
Tempe, AZ

3/24/22
Jorge Arvizu, Ignacio del Río, Emmanuel Ramirez, Diego Ricalde
Estudio MMX
Mexico City, Mexico

Daniel Adams, Marie Law Adams
Landing Studio
Somerville, MA

Moderated by Rashida Ng
Philadelphia, PA

3/31/22
Azra Akšamija
MIT Future Heritage Lab
Cambridge, MA

Sekou Cooke
sekou cooke STUDIO
Charlotte, NC

Moderated by Ersela Kripa
El Paso, TX

Support

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About The Architectural League

The Architectural League of New York nurtures excellence in architecture, design, and urbanism, and stimulates thinking, debate, and action on the critical design and building issues of our time. As a vital, independent forum for architecture and its allied disciplines, the League helps create a more beautiful, vibrant, innovative, and sustainable future.

For more information, visit archleague.org.